[Sri M. A. Manickavelu] [22nd February 1961

has reported that the hon. Member Sri C. Muthiah, M.L.A., personally expressed to him his satisfaction at the timely and adequate relief given to the victims and even said that he had told the Chief Minister that everything was quite alright in his taluk. The allegation of the hon. Member that the Government have failed to give satisfactory relief to the Harijans is, therefore, baseless in view of the fact that the damages were correctly assessed by the officers in charge of the area and adequate and timely relief was given to the victims on the merits of each case.

IV.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.

(1) CHANGE OF NON-OFFICIAL DAY INTO OFFICIAL DAY

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I move the following motion :—

" That Rule 23 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact official business on Thursday, the 23rd February 1961."

The motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER : Therefore to-morrow we will have official business and in lieu thereof I allot Friday, the 24th February 1961 for non-official business.

(2) AMENDMENT TO RULE 12 (1) OF SCHEDULE V TO THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL ACT, 1919.

* THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : I move the following motion :—

" That the following draft of a rule proposed to be made by the Governor of Madras under sub-section (3) of section 347 of the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919 (Madras Act IV of 1919), amending Schedule V to that Act be approved :—

Draft amendment.

In sub-rule (1) of rule 12 of the said schedule, *for* the words ' or in his absence by the Revenue Officer's, the words ' or any Officer or servant of the Corporation specially authorized by the Commissioner in this behalf ' shall be *substituted*."

Sir, under Rule 12 (1) of Schedule V to the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, all orders and cheques against the municipal fund (i.e., Corporation fund) shall be signed by the Commissioner of the Corporation of Madras or in his absence by the Revenue Officer of the Corporation. Under this rule, at present all pay orders and cheques against municipal fund are signed by the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras. Under rules 13 and 14 of the said schedule the Commissioner is the authority competent to make or authorize the payment out of Corporation funds of sums due for payment.

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The Commissioner has stated that due to expansion of the developmental activities and execution of various capital works, he has to sign hundreds of cheques every day which takes a good deal of his precious time which could be concentrated on more important items of work which require his attention. He therefore considers that all pay orders and cheques against the municipal fund can be signed by the Deputy Commissioner. The Commissioner has therefore requested the Government to amend rule 12 (1) of Schedule V to the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, suitably.

Under section 16 of the Madras City Municipal Act, the Commissioner may delegate to any officer any of his ordinary powers, duties or functions except those excepted therein. Rule 12 of Schedule V to the Madras City Municipal Act is not one of the exceptions specified in the said section. However rules 13 and 14 of the said Schedule are among the exceptions enumerated in section 16 of the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919. It is therefore proposed to amend only rule 12 (1) of the said schedule which will enable the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, to delegate the power of signing the cheques to any officer or servant of the Corporation specially authorized by the Commissioner in this behalf.

This will not entail legislation, but under section 347 (5) of the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, a draft of the rule proposed to alter the Scheule V should be laid before both chambers of the State Legislature and their approval obtained. I ask for the approval of the House accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is—

That the following draft of a rule proposed to be made by the Governor of Madras under sub-section (3) of section 347 of the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919 (Madras Act IV of 1919) amending Schedule V to that Act be approved :—

DRAFT AMENDMENT.

In sub-rule (1) of rule 12 of the said schedule, *for* the words 'or in his absence by the Revenue Officer', the words 'or any officer or servant of the Corporation specially authorized by the Commissioner in this behalf' shall be *substituted*."

The motion was put and carried.

V. GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS STATE HOUSING BOARD BILL, 1961 (L.A. BILL NO. 31 OF 1960)

MR. SPEAKER : Now I want to consult the House as to the procedure to be adopted in respect of amendments. Rule 110 of the Assembly Rules lays down that three clear days' notice of any amendment should be given to the Speaker. But I find that hon. Members are violating this rule and even this morning I was given notice of amendments. I think rule 110 is binding on the Government also. Of course, it is customary to allow minor amendments